



## ***Update and Overview***

### **AT A GLANCE**

- In partnership with local community and Tribes CAPP has developed and is implementing a Child and Family Practice Model in four counties.
- The Child and Family Practice Model has been developed for all children being served by child welfare with a focus on partnering with communities whose children have been in foster care the longest.
- The goal is to provide children with the greatest support possible to safely remain with their families, return to their families, or live with relatives or those with whom they have significant family or Tribal relationships. This approach is designed to lead to fewer children and youth in long-term foster care as well as fewer entries into foster care in the first place.
- Through this effort we are working to build a statewide foundation for a comprehensive and culturally responsive approach to both practice and system level change that is responsive to the strengths and underlying needs of children, youth and families involved in the child welfare system.

### **PARTNERSHIP APPROACH**

As local sites implement the Child and Family Practice Model they continue to involve parents, youth, caregivers, communities and Tribes in the work in order to learn from those who have first-hand experiences with the child welfare system. Their expertise is assisting CAPP sites in understanding how the day-to-day actions and interactions of child welfare and other systems serving children and families can ensure that all children remain connected to their families and to cultural, community and Tribal supports.

CAPP is partnering with the many systems that serve vulnerable children and families to create and implement coordinated practices and aligned policies that:

- Understand, engage and value the strengths and resources of families and their supportive communities and Tribes; and
- Make available and support the use of culturally-based and trauma-informed support services to address the specific needs of children and their families.

### **FOUNDATIONAL WORK TO DATE**

CAPP sites have conducted local child welfare system reviews and analyses to better understand and address the systemic barriers that undermine achieving optimal permanency outcomes for children and families.

System Issues identified across all sites included:

1. Weak and Insufficient Engagement Practices
2. Lack of Family Voice and Urgent and Sustained Permanency Focus
3. Lack of Relevant, Timely, Well-Coordinated Services
4. Lack of Accurate Understanding of Family Strengths and Needs

A Child and Family Practice Model has been developed that includes a front line practice approach designed to address the systemic issues above. The four front line practices are:

1. Exploration and Engagement
2. Power of Family
3. Circle of Support
4. Healing Trauma

## LEANING IN, LIFTING UP AND CONNECTING TO CULTURE

The Four Front line Practices have been translated into specific behaviors that are being utilized by social workers and partners in their day-to-day interactions to ensure that they are:

- Leaning In – Meaningfully engaging and empowering families
- Lifting up– Empowering families to advocate for needed supports and services
- Connecting – Bringing a natural circle of family community and tribal supports together
- Culture – Supporting families in using cultural practices to promote healing and wholeness

## GETTING STARTED AND GETTING BETTER

CAPP Sites are implementing the Child and Family Practice Model and are engaging in a variety of activities needed to establish an optimum environment to support and sustain the Practice Model. They include:

- An Active and Involved Community
- Shared Commitment to the Practice Model
- Capacity –Building and Installation

Specifically the sites are:

- Addressing System Barriers by working with local partners to develop culturally relevant and trauma informed services to meet the needs of local children and families.
- Developing Implementation teams with representatives from leadership, staff and community and Tribes to manage and support all aspects of implementation.
- Creating Coaching Practices to help individuals and systems build the skills and structures needed to support the effective and consistent use of the practice behaviors.
- Preparing to evaluate the Child and Family Practice Model by determining if the practice behaviors are being implemented consistently.

## WHAT'S NEXT

We will continue to learn, evolve and improve the implementation of the Child and Family Practice Model.

Toward that goal we will:

- Continue our outreach and involvement of community and Tribes in the implementation of the Practice Model.
- Work with system partners to ensure coordinated efforts and interactions with children and families.
- Evaluate the Child and Family Practice Model by employing a two phase process:
  - The Formative Evaluation: The evaluation will first determine if the Model is working as intended by examining administrative data and surveying parents/guardians. If the model is not working as intended, CAPP will refine it and test it again before proceeding.
  - The Summative Evaluation: This evaluation phase will test the impact of the Model. In the long-term CAPP expects to: 1) Reduce the number of children in long-term foster care; 2) Increase the number and timeliness of permanent exits from foster care 3) Decrease re-entry into foster care; 4) Decrease non-permanent exits from foster care; and 5) Reduce disparity in achieving outcomes for certain populations of children at highest risk of long-term foster care.
- Continue to engage in local and statewide efforts to identify and address systemic barriers.
- Work to integrate CAPP values and partnership approach with other emerging practice models to create an integrated model that addresses the system challenges and serves the needs of vulnerable children and families in California.

To learn more about California Partners for Permanency, visit [www.reducefostercarenow.org](http://www.reducefostercarenow.org) or contact Karen Gunderson, Project Director, at the California Department of Social Services, [karen.gunderson@dss.ca.gov](mailto:karen.gunderson@dss.ca.gov) or (916) 651.7395.



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